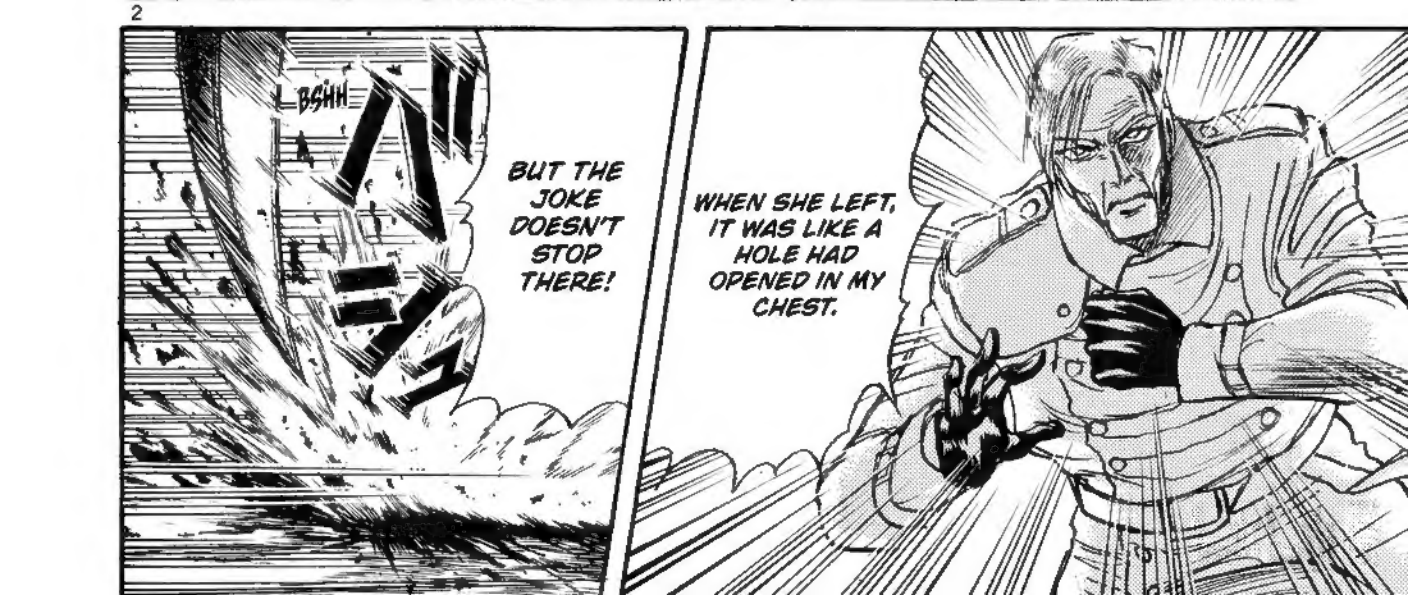
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
YOU'RE SAYING...
...THAT YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH ANGELINA SINCE LONG AGO? SADAYOSHI!

ACT 42 -
SADAYOSHI VS. SHOUJI
EXACTLY, SHOUJI.
WSHH

FSHHH
BUT SOMEONE AS GOOD-WILLED AS YOU NEVER NOTICED IT, HUH?!
EVER SINCE THEN I WAS CAPTIVATED BY HER!
...I WAS ALWAYS BY HER SIDE IN FRANCE!
BEFORE SHE MET YOU DURING THE EDO PERIOD...


BSHH
BUT THE JOKE DOESN'T STOP THERE!
WHEN SHE LEFT, IT WAS LIKE A HOLE HAD OPENED IN MY CHEST.

WHO COULD IMAGINE THAT 28 YEARS LATER SHE WOULD MARRY AN UNCIVILIZED MONKEY IN JAPAN!
YOU, SHOUJI!
3
WHY DID YOU CONCEAL YOUR HATRED FOR ME AND BECOME MY RIGHT-HAND MAN?!
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO STAY IN JAPAN HELPING US...
SLIDE
I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE MARRIED YOU ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.
SO I PATIENTLY WAITED FOR HER TO COME TO HER SENSES.

GREAT WORK, ANGELINA!
I'M EXPECTING A BABY
HOW-EVER...

VWMP
CONGRATS, SHOUJI. ANGELINA'S LOVE WAS ALL YOURS.

EVER SINCE THEN, MY HEART HAD NO MORE SPARKLE FOR ANGELINA...

SHE WAS SIMPLY A *FOOLISH WOMAN...*

...WHO DIDN'T CHOOSE ME!

SO... THAT'S WHY YOU ATTACKED KUROGA VILLAGE TO STEAL THE SOFT STONE...?

TO GET THE STONE IN HER BELLY AFTER SHE GAVE BIRTH...

FWMP

YOU'RE REALLY STUBBORN. YEAH, I DID THAT, SO WHAT?

CLANG
6
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
WHA...?!
CLICK
WITH THOSE WORDS...
...I CAN FINALLY PULL THE TRIGGER, SADAYOSHI.

CLICK
YOU BAS-TARD!

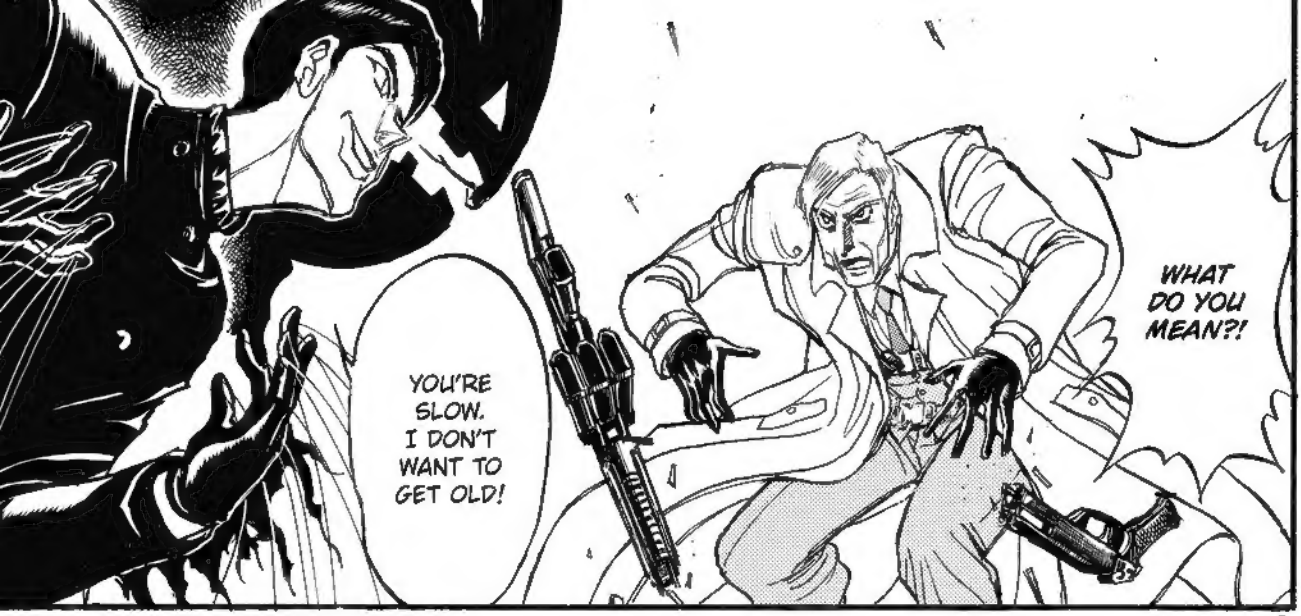
SADA-YOSHIIII!
RATATATA
BANG
CLICK
BANG
CLICK
BANG

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

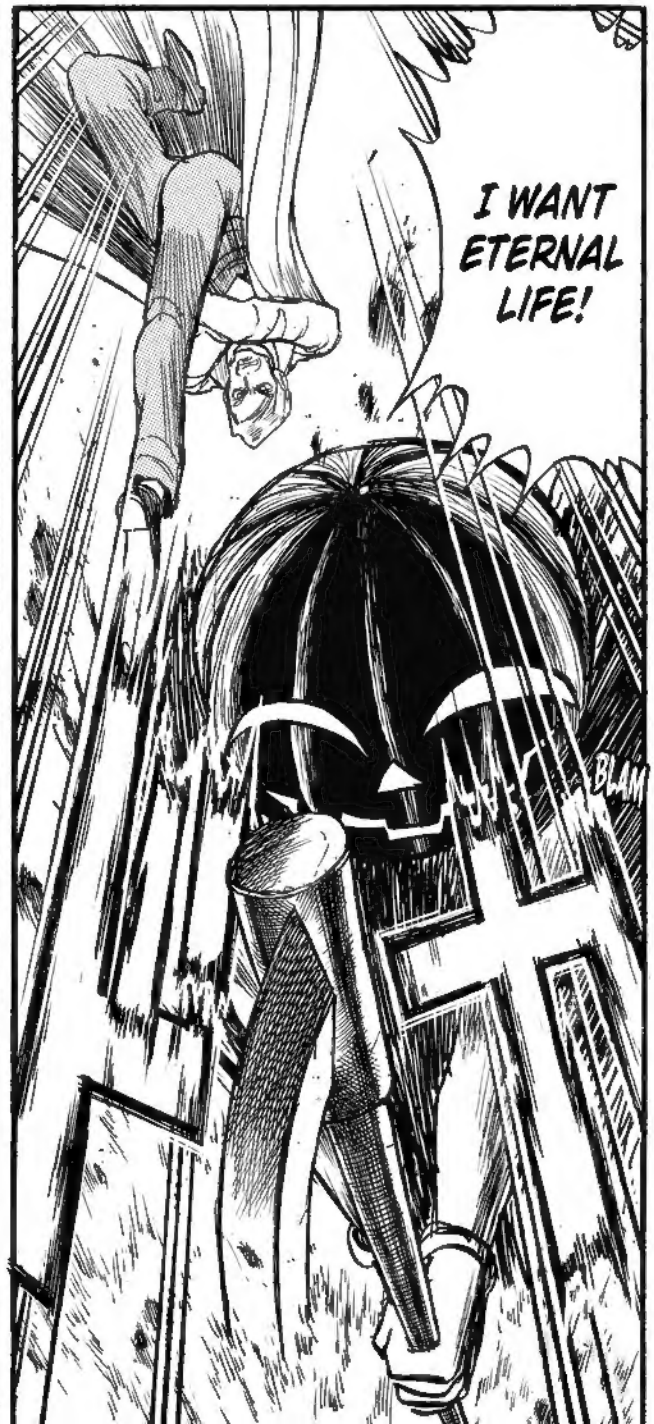
ANGELINA TRUSTED YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART!
WHY?!
BLAM
BLAM

I CHOSE MY IDEALS OVER THAT!
HUWAHAHAHAH, WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING THE TRUST OF A WOMAN WHO REJECTED ME?!

CRASH
WOOSH
TO GET THE SOFT STONE!!

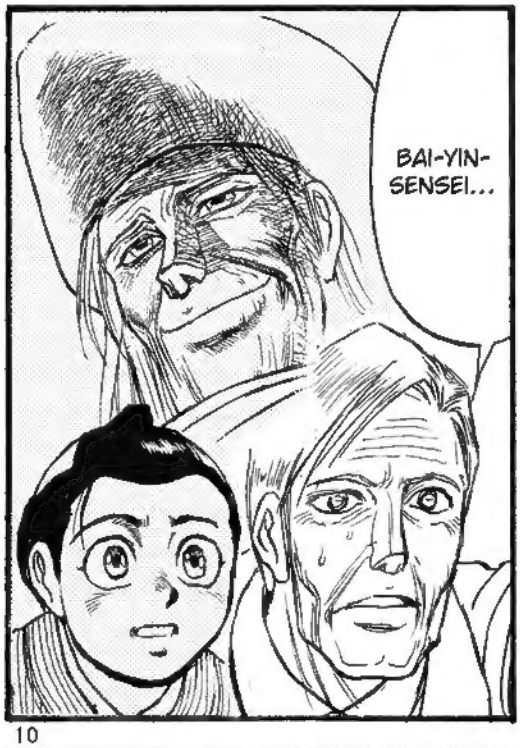

YOU'RE SLOW. I DON'T WANT TO GET OLD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

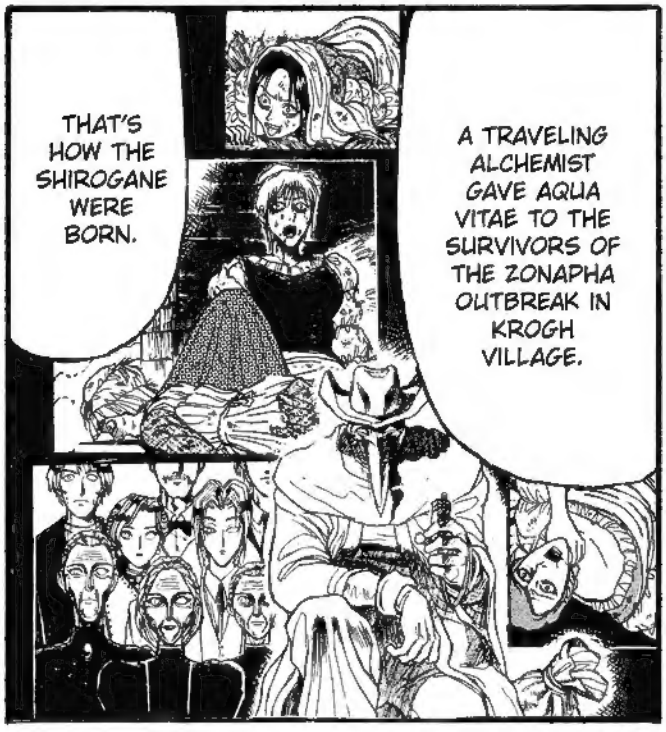
BANG
BANG
ETERNAL... LIFE?

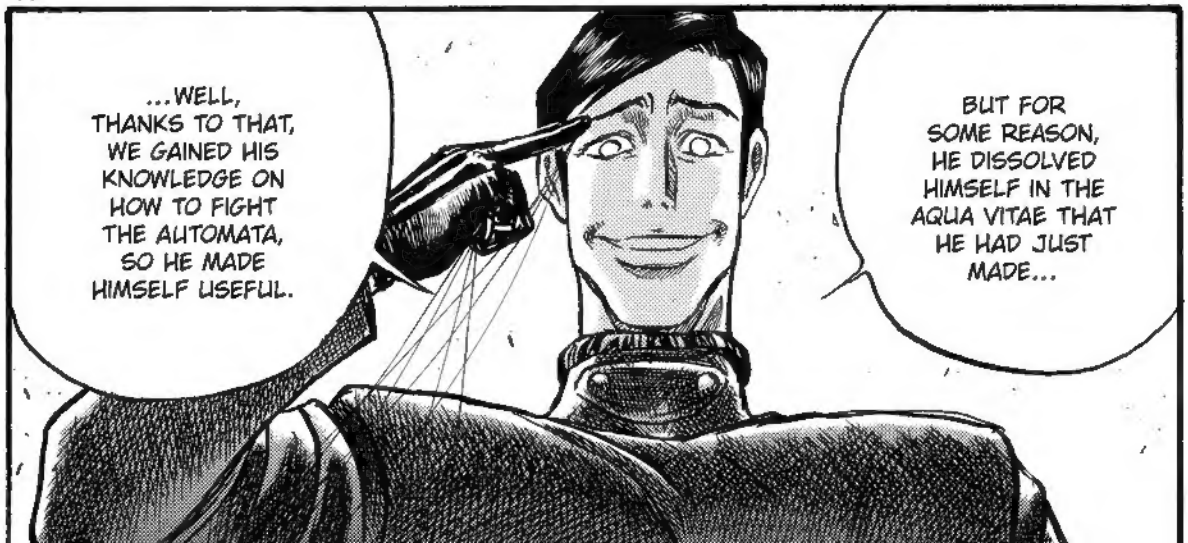

I WANT ETERNAL LIFE!
BLAM

I'LL TELL YOU BEFORE I KILL YOU, SHOUJI.
FANPM

LAND
EVERY-THING WAS MADE BY A SINGLE MAN...
...TWO THOU-SAND YEARS AGO!
ABOUT THE AQUA VITAE THAT WE SHIROGANE DRANK...
...AND THE THING WHICH CREATES IT, THE SOFT STONE.


BAI-YIN-SENSEI...


THAT'S HOW THE SHIROGANE WERE BORN.
A TRAVELING ALCHEMIST GAVE AQUA VITAE TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE ZONAPHA OUTBREAK IN KROGH VILLAGE.


...WELL, THANKS TO THAT, WE GAINED HIS KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO FIGHT THE AUTOMATA, SO HE MADE HIMSELF USEFUL.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE DISSOLVED HIMSELF IN THE AQUA VITAE THAT HE HAD JUST MADE...

WAS A REAL IDIOT, YOU KNOW.

THAT THIS FIRST MAN...
BUT, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THINKING...

HUHAHAHAH... HOW HILARIOUS! HE WAS NOTHING BUT A FOOL!

...BUT HE STILL DIED FOR OTHER'S SAKE...
HE CREATED AN ELIXIR THAT COULD CURE EVERY DISEASE, STRENGTHEN YOUR LIFE FORCE AND PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES WITHIN THE LIQUID...

WHAT?

SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAME UP WITH A BETTER WAY TO USE IT THAN BAI-YIN-SENSEI?
YOU ...!!
GRIND

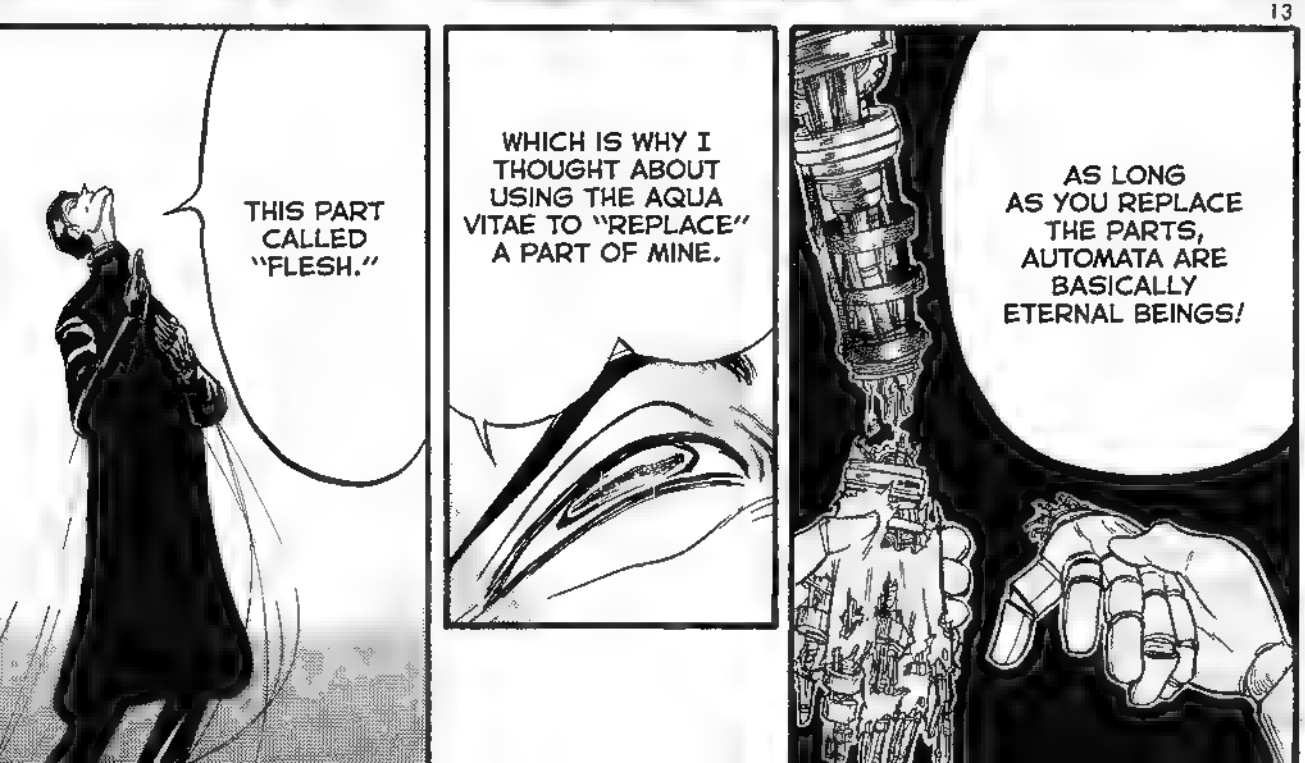
...GROW OLD.
EVEN SHIROGANE...

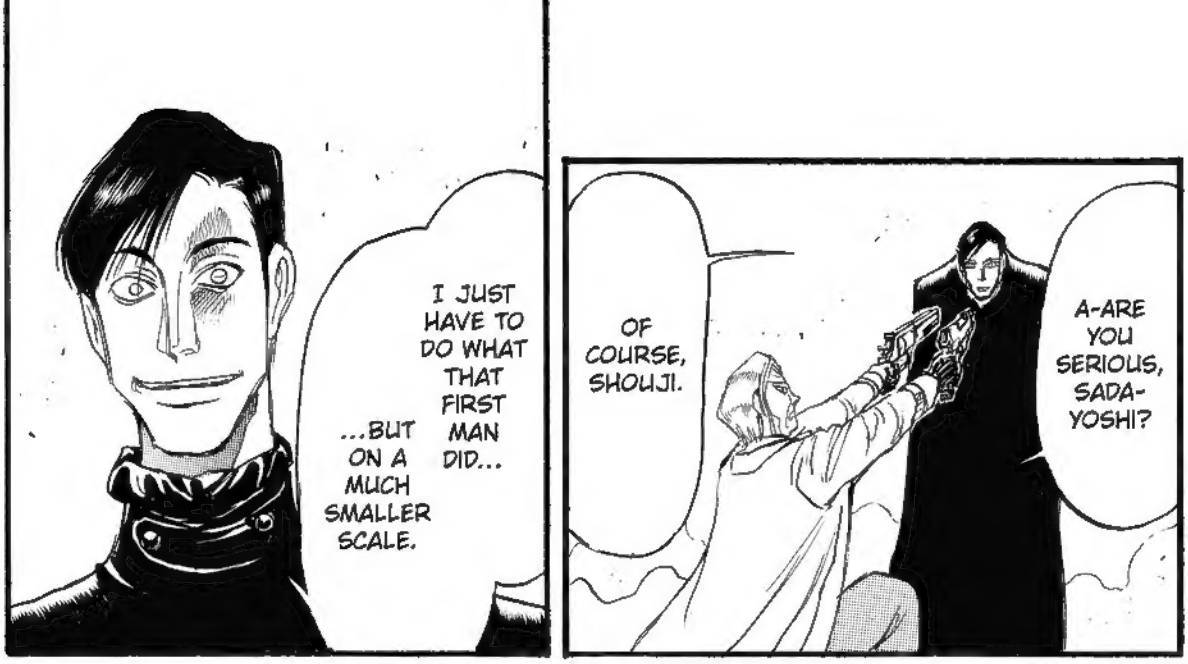
HOWEVER, A DIFFERENT BEING FROM US EXISTS.

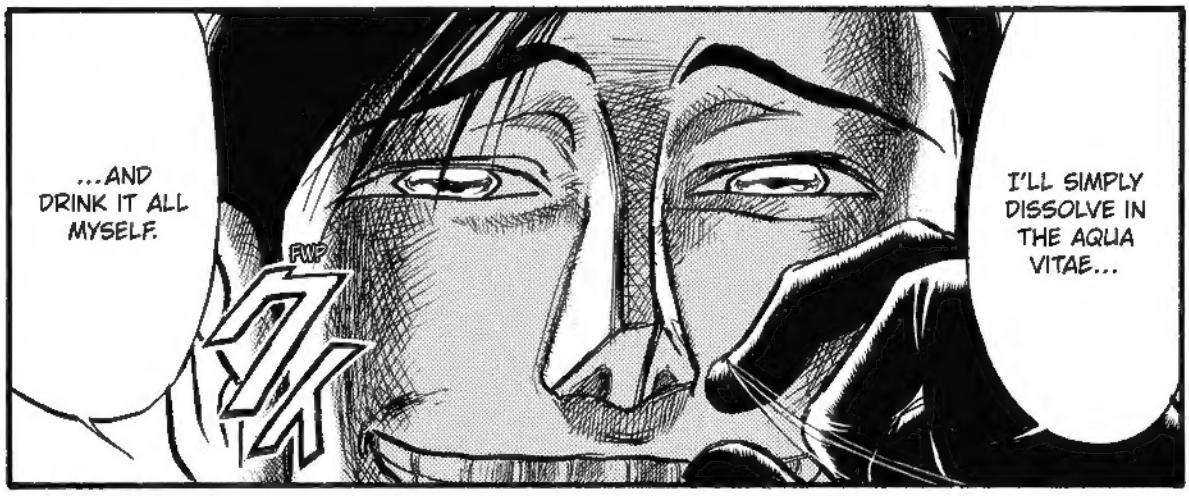
...IT JUST MAKES THE SHIROGANE AGE SLOWER.
AQUA VITAE DOESN'T REJU-VENATE...

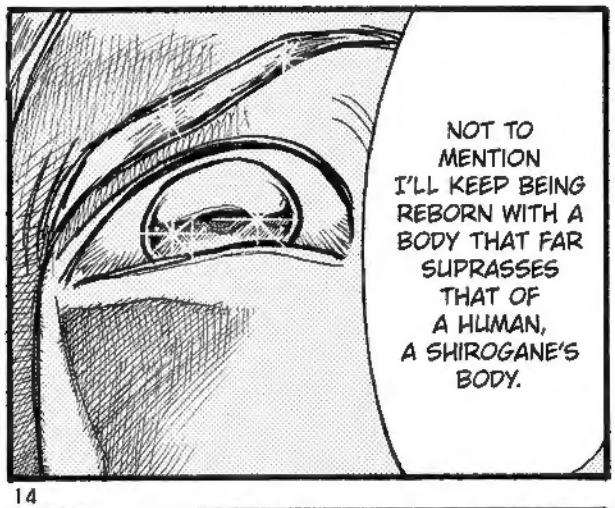
I CAN'T STAND THAT.
EVEN IF THEY AGE ONE YEAR FOR EVERY FIVE YEARS, THEY STILL GET OLD. JUST LOOK AT US. WE GREW OLD, DIDN'T WE?

MATA...
AUTO...
THEY HAVE THE IDEAL IMMUTABLE BODY!
AND NEVER FORGET THINGS.
NEVER GROW WEAK.
THEY NEVER AGE.
EXACTLY!
I IMMENSELY ADMIRE OUR ENEMIES!


THIS PART CALLED "FLESH."
WHICH IS WHY I THOUGHT ABOUT USING THE AQUA VITAE TO "REPLACE" A PART OF MINE.
AS LONG AS YOU REPLACE THE PARTS, AUTOMATA ARE BASICALLY ETERNAL BEINGS!

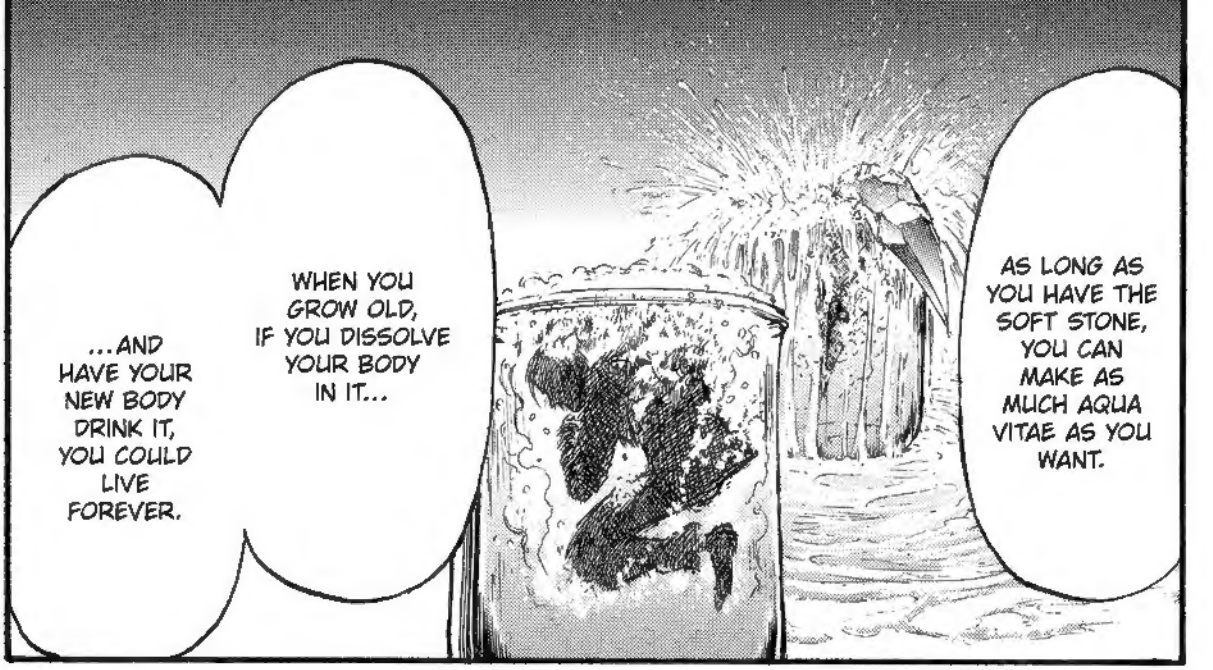

I JUST HAVE TO DO WHAT THAT FIRST MAN DID...
...BUT ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE.
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS, SADA-YOSHI?
OF COURSE, SHOUJI.


I'LL SIMPLY DISSOLVE IN THE AQUA VITAE...
PWP
...AND DRINK IT ALL MYSELF.

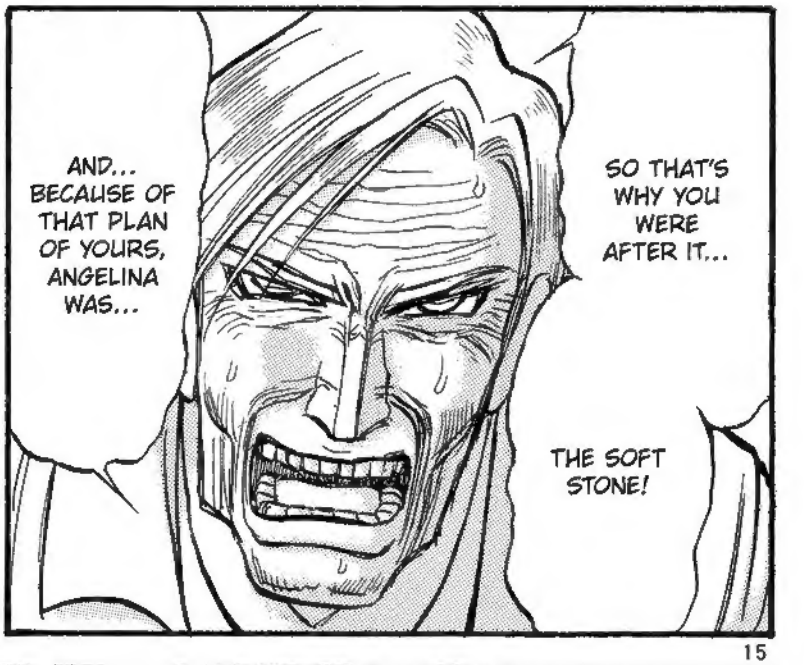

NOT TO MENTION I'LL KEEP BEING REBORN WITH A BODY THAT FAR SUPRASSES THAT OF A HUMAN, A SHIROGANE'S BODY.

DOING THAT, IT'S POSSIBLE TO "REINCARNATE" IN A NEW BODY, PRESERVING MY MEMORIES AND MY PERSONALITY.

T-THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN... BY ETERNAL LIFE...?


AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE SOFT STONE, YOU CAN MAKE AS MUCH AQUA VITAE AS YOU WANT.
WHEN YOU GROW OLD, IF YOU DISSOLVE YOUR BODY IN IT...
...AND HAVE YOUR NEW BODY DRINK IT, YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER.

I FAILED THAT TIME... AND I EVEN WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF IMPERSONATING YOU TO DRIVE THE VILLAGERS AWAY.


SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE AFTER IT...
AND... BECAUSE OF THAT PLAN OF YOURS, ANGELINA WAS...
THE SOFT STONE!

15

SO, SHOUJI... BEFORE YOU DIE, JUST TELL ME ONE THING.

I CREATED DOLLS JUST LIKE THE AUTOMATA TO PERFORM THE ATTACK...
...BUT IN THE END, THE SOFT STONE WASN'T IN ANGELINA'S BODY.

WHERE'S THE SOFT STONE?

WOOSH

BAAM
AS IF I'D EVER...
...TELL THE LIKES OF YOU.
KABOOM